

## Listing of Claims

**Claim 1** (currently amended) :

A pipe connector comprising:

- (a) a [sphinctoral] continuous sphincteral band;
- (b) a pipe coupling sleeve having an annular wall extending through the [sphinctoral] sphincteral band, the pipe coupling sleeve having at least a first traction pin aperture extending through the annular wall; and
- (c) at least a first traction pin fixedly attached to the [sphinctoral] sphincteral band and extending inwardly therefrom, the at least first traction pin extending through the at least first traction pin aperture, the at least first traction pin being moveable between an inwardly extended pipe engaging position and an outwardly retracted pipe disengaging position.

**Claim 2** (currently amended) :

A pipe connector comprising:

- (a) a sphincteral band;
- (b) a coupling sleeve having an annular wall extending through the sphincteral band, the coupling sleeve having at least a first traction pin aperture extending through the annular wall; and
- (c) at least a first traction pin fixedly attached to the sphincteral band and extending inwardly therefrom, the at least first traction pin extending through the at least

first traction pin aperture, the at least first traction pin being moveable between an inwardly extended pipe engaging position and an outwardly retracted pipe disengaging position; [The pipe connector of Claim 1 wherein] the [sphinctoral] sphincteral band [comprises] comprising an end connector selected from the group consisting of over-center buckles, worm gear buckles, flexible pawl buckles, double eye turn back buckles, roll back fasteners, bandit band fasteners, cable tie fasteners and pre-formed clamp fasteners.

**Claim 3 (previously presented) :**

The pipe connector of Claim 2 further comprising at least a second traction pin aperture wherein the traction pin apertures are arranged annularly around the coupling sleeve's annular wall.

**Claim 4 (previously presented) :**

The pipe connector of Claim 3 wherein each traction pin has a distal end adapted for frictional pipe engagement.

**Claim 5 (previously presented) :**

The pipe connector of Claim 4 wherein the adaptations for frictional pipe engagement comprise configurations selected from the group consisting of spike points, blade edges, and serrated teeth.

**Claim 6** (previously presented) :

The pipe connector of Claim 5 wherein the coupling sleeve's annular wall has an annular inner surface, and further comprising pipe sealing means connected operably to the annular inner surface.

**Claim 7** (previously presented) :

The pipe connector of Claim 6 wherein the pipe sealing means comprises an "O" ring nestingly received within a channel within the annular inner surface of the coupling sleeve's annular wall.

**Claim 8** (currently amended) :

The pipe connector of Claim 7 wherein the [sphinctoral] sphincteral band and the traction pins comprise steel, and wherein the coupling sleeve comprises a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, steel, brass, and copper.

**Claim 9** (currently amended) :

A pipe connector comprising:

- (a) first and second [sphinctoral] continuous sphincteral bands;
- (b) a pipe coupling sleeve having first and second annular walls respectively extending through the first and second [sphinctoral] sphincteral bands, the first and second annular walls having first and second pluralities of traction pin apertures respectively extending therethrough; and,

(c) first and second pluralities of traction pins respectively attached to the first and second [sphinctoral] sphincteral bands and respectively extending inwardly therefrom, each first traction pin extending through one of the first traction pin apertures, and each second traction pin extending through one of the second traction pin apertures, the first and second traction pins being moveable between inwardly extended pipe engaging positions and outwardly retracted pipe disengaging positions.

**Claim 10 (currently amended) :**

A pipe connector comprising:

- (a) first and second sphincteral bands;
- (b) a coupling sleeve having first and second annular walls respectively extending through the first and second sphincteral bands, the first and second annular walls having first and second pluralities of traction pin apertures respectively extending therethrough; and,
- (c) first and second pluralities of traction pins respectively attached to the first and second sphincteral bands and respectively extending inwardly therefrom, each first traction pin extending through one of the first traction pin apertures, and each second traction pin extending through one of the second traction pin apertures, the first and second traction pins being moveable between inwardly extended pipe engaging positions and outwardly retracted pipe disengaging positions; [The pipe connector of Claim 9

wherein] the coupling sleeve's second annular wall [is] being oriented at an angle with respect to the coupling sleeve's first annular wall.

**Claim 11 (currently amended) :**

The pipe connector of Claim 10 wherein the first and second [sphinctoral] sphincteral bands comprise end connectors selected from the group consisting of over-center buckles, worm gear buckles, flexible pawl buckles, double eye turn back buckles, roll back fasteners, bandit band fasteners, cable tie fasteners, and pre-formed clamp fasteners.

**Claim 12 (previously presented) :**

The pipe connector of Claim 11 wherein the first and second traction pin apertures are respectively arranged annularly around the coupling sleeve's first and second annular walls.

**Claim 13 (previously presented) :**

The pipe connector of Claim 12 wherein each first traction pin and each second traction pin has a distal end adapted for frictional pipe engagement.

**Claim 14 (previously presented) :**

The pipe connector of Claim 13 wherein the adaptations for frictional pipe engagement comprise configurations selected from the group consisting of spike points, blade edges and serrated teeth.

**Claim 15** (previously presented) :

The pipe connector of Claim 14 wherein the coupling sleeve's first and second walls respectively have first and second annular inner surfaces, and further comprising first and second pipe sealing means respectively connected operably to the first and second annular inner surfaces.

**Claim 16** (previously presented) :

The pipe connector of Claim 15 wherein the first and second pipe sealing means comprise first and second "O" rings respectively nestingly received within channels within the annular inner surfaces of the coupling sleeve's walls.

**Claim 17** (currently amended) :

The pipe connector of Claim 16 wherein the first and second [sphinctoral] sphincteral bands and the first and second traction pins comprise steel, and wherein the coupling sleeve comprises a material selected from the group consisting of plastic, copper, steel, and brass.